

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising a matrix which, on pyrolysis, forms spinel, and 20 to 95 weight % of an inorganic particulate filler having a hollow or a lamellar structure, wherein the matrix comprises a liquid pre-ceramic binder and at least one other component selected from a metal powder, a metal oxide powder and mixtures thereof.

2. (Original) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the liquid pre-ceramic binder comprises a material selected from aluminium-containing pre-ceramic materials and magnesium-containing pre-ceramic materials.

3. (Original) A composition according to claim 2, wherein the liquid pre-ceramic binder comprises a material selected from aluminium chlorohydrate, aluminium nitrate nonahydrate, magnesium chloride hexahydrate, magnesium nitrate nonahydrate and mixtures thereof.

4. (Original) A composition according to claim 3, wherein the matrix comprises an aluminium chlorohydrate binder and talc.

5. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim 3, wherein the matrix comprises an aluminium nitrate nonahydrate binder and a metal oxide selected from the group consisting of magnesia, talc and mixtures thereof.

6. (Currently Amended) A composition according to [[claim 4 or]]claim 5, wherein the matrix additionally comprises alumina.

7. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim 3, wherein the matrix comprises a pre-ceramic binder selected from the group consisting of magnesium chloride hexahydrate and magnesium nitrate nonahydrate; a metal oxide selected from the group consisting of magnesia, talc and mixtures thereof; and alumina.

8. (Currently Amended) A composition according to [[any preceding]]claim 1, wherein the filler comprises hollow particles of an inorganic oxide.

9. (Currently Amended) A composition according to ~~any of claims claim 1 to 7~~, wherein the filler comprises a micaceous material.

10. (Original) A composition according to claim 9, wherein the filler comprises vermiculite.

11. (Currently Amended) A composition according to ~~[[any preceding]]~~claim 1, which comprises 10 to 95 weight %, preferably 20 to 70 wt. %, hollow or lamellar filler.

12. (Currently Amended) A composition according to ~~[[any preceding]]~~claim 1, which comprises an inorganic filler in addition to the filler having a hollow or a lamellar structure.

13. (Currently Amended) A product obtainable by pyrolysing a composition as defined in ~~[[any preceding]]~~claim 1.

14. (Original) An article comprising a substrate and, attached to or coated on a surface of the substrate, a product as defined in claim 13.

15. (Currently Amended) An article according to claim 14, wherein the substrate is ~~selected from a ceramic materials, preferably oxide-oxide ceramic materials, and high temperature metallic materials.~~

16. (Currently Amended) An article according to claim ~~14 or claim 15~~, wherein the substrate forms part of an article selected from the group consisting of an aircraft, power-generating equipment, a furnace lining, a heat-exchanger, and a reactor.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a heat resistant product, the method comprising mixing together a matrix which, on pyrolysis, forms spinel and comprises a liquid pre-ceramic binder and at least one other component selected from a metal powder, a metal oxide powder and mixtures thereof, as defined in any of claims 1 to 7 and an inorganic particulate filler having a hollow or a lamellar structure ~~as defined in any of claims 1 and 8 to 10~~; and pyrolysing the resultant mixture.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 17, wherein, prior to pyrolysis, the mixture is coated on to a substrate.

19. (Currently Amended) In a structure having a thermal barrier coating, utilizing ~~Use of a~~ composition as defined in ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 12~~, as ~~[[a]]~~ the thermal barrier coating.

20. (New) A composition according to claim 1, which comprises 20 to 70 weight % hollow or lamellar filler.